



They can do things in Japan we could never even dream of doing. The imperial family of Japan dwells together in harmony under circumstances that would cause domestic disruption, if not absolute disruption, in an every-day American family. Her majesty the Empress is several years older than her illustrious spouse, the Mikado, and though she is the only wife he has ever had she is not the mother of the five children—the crown prince and four princes—of whom the Emperor is the father. In case she should become the mother of a son, which, as she is fifty-six years old, is exceedingly improbable, the illegitimate children of the Emperor would have to stand aside. Now they are accorded the full honors due to members of the imperial family.